and crashed into a signal cabin near Datia railway station on 3rd October, 2005;

(b) the number of persons who lost their lives and those who were injured as a result thereof alongwith the number out of them who were passers by, in addition to passengers and railway employees;

(c) whether any *ex-gratia* payment has been made in respect of all those affected separately;

(d) whether an inquiry into the mishap has been held; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. In this unfortunate accident 13 persons (11 passengers and 2 Railway Staff) lost their lives, 11 persons (9 passengers and 2 Railway staff) were grievously injured and 25 passengers sustained simple injuries.

(c) An *ex-gratia* relief of Rs. 1 lakh was announced, out of which Rs. 15,000/- has been made to the each case of grievously injured passengers and grievously injured railway employees as well. *Ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 5,000/- has been paid to all the passengers who sustained simple injuries except one.

(d) and (e) As per provisional findings contained in Preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle the accident occurred due to non application of brakes resulting in the train running through sand hump though starter signal for down loop line was showing red aspect being a stopping station.

Inadequate fund for rail projects in Kerala

1926. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inadequate fund allocation to various railway projects in the State of Kerala is hampering the progress of these projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects of which work has been delayed due to the above reason, project-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The funds to various projects are being provided as per availability of resources based on State-wise formula. The funds to projects in Kerala are also being provided as per the formula and the projects are not getting delayed on account of fund constraint.

Trains upto Ajmer

†1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajmer is a significant area from tourism and commercial point of view on account of existence of shrine of Khuaja Garib Nawaj, the Teerthraj Puskhar and a marble town named Kishangarh in Ajmer district;

(b) whether the facility of trains is lacking in Ajmer keeping in view the huge number of professionals, pilgrims and lakhs of tourists coming here each year;

(c) whether his Ministry has any plan to start some new trains or to extend the existing trains upto Ajmer in order to overcome this shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Existing train services are considered adequate for catering to the needs of the passengers of Ajmer.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Introduction of additional train from Ajmer or extension of existing trains upto Ajmer is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Security at railway lines

1928. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway had decided to make investments for improving the security at railway lines;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.